

## **Claims**

What is claimed is:

1. A method of delivering content in a client-server system based on a request from a client, comprising the steps of:

5 obtaining the request;

determining a performance characteristic of at least one server or at least one cache of the client-server system; and

10 determining a level of data accuracy to be delivered to the client in response to the request, the determination being based on: (i) the determined performance characteristic of the at least one server or the at least one cache; and (ii) at least one preference associated with the client.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of determining a performance characteristic comprises determining a load of the at least one server or the at least one cache.

15 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of determining a level of data accuracy comprises determining a level of personalization to be delivered to the client in response to the request.

20 4. The method of claim 3, wherein basing the determination of a level of data accuracy on the at least one preference associated with the client further comprises basing the determination of a level of data accuracy on at least one personalization preference.

5. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of forming a hierarchy comprising the at least one server and the at least one cache before the step of determining a performance characteristic.

5 6. The method of claim 1, wherein delivering content in a client-server system comprises delivering content in the World Wide Web.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein delivering the content comprises delivering one or more Web pages.

8. The method of claim 6, further comprising the step of creating a personalized Web page based on the determined level of accuracy.

10 9. A method of delivering content in a client-server system based on a request from a client, comprising the steps of:

obtaining the request;

determining a characteristic of at least one server and at least one cache of the client-server system; and

15 determining a level of data accuracy to be delivered to the client in response to the request, the determination being based on: (i) the determined characteristic of the at least one server and the at least one cache; and (ii) at least one preference associated with the client.

20 10. A method of delivering content in a client-server system based on a request from a client, comprising the steps of:

obtaining the request;

determining a characteristic of at least one server or at least one cache of the client-server system; and

5 determining a level of personalization to be delivered to the client in response to the request, the determination being based on: (i) the determined characteristic of the at least one server or the at least one cache; and (ii) at least one preference associated with the client.

11. Apparatus for delivering content in a client-server system based on a request from a client, comprising:

a memory; and

10 one or more processors coupled to the memory and operative to: (i) obtain the request; (ii) determine a performance characteristic of at least one server or at least one cache of the client-server system; and (iii) determine a level of data accuracy to be delivered to the client in response to the request, the determination being based on: (i) the determined performance characteristic of the at least one server or the at least one cache;  
15 and (ii) at least one preference associated with the client.

12. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the performance characteristic comprises a load of the at least one server or the at least one cache.

13. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the level of data accuracy comprises a level of personalization to be delivered to the client in response to the request.

20 14. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the at least one server and the at least one cache form a hierarchy.

15. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the client-server system comprises the World Wide Web.

16. An article of manufacture for use in delivering content in a client-server system based on a request from a client, comprising a machine readable medium containing one or more programs which when executed implement the steps of:

obtaining the request;

determining a performance characteristic of at least one server or at least one cache of the client-server system; and

determining a level of data accuracy to be delivered to the client in response to the request, the determination being based on: (i) the determined performance characteristic of the at least one server or the at least one cache; and (ii) at least one preference associated with the client.

17. A method of providing a data serving service, comprising the step of:

a service provider providing a data serving service operative to: (i) obtain a client request; (ii) determine a performance characteristic of at least one server or at least one cache of the client-server system; and (iii) determine a level of data accuracy to be delivered to the client in response to the request, the determination being based on: (i) the determined performance characteristic of the at least one server or the at least one cache; and (ii) at least one preference associated with the client.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein the step of determining a performance characteristic comprises determining a load of the at least one server or the at least one cache.

19. The method of claim 17, wherein the step of determining a level of data accuracy comprises determining a level of personalization to be delivered to the client in response to the request.

5 20. A system for delivering content in a client-server system based on a request from a client, comprising:

a hierarchy of at least one cache and at least one server;

10 wherein at least one of the at least one cache and the at least one server is operative to: (i) obtain the request; (ii) determine a characteristic of at least one server and at least one cache of the data network; and (iii) determine a level of data accuracy to be delivered to the client in response to the request, the determination being based on: (i) the determined characteristic of the at least one server and the at least one cache; and (ii) at least one preference associated with the client.